Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-27 and add new Claims 28-36 as follows.

1. – 27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A method implemented at least in part by a computer for facilitating the reduction of tone scale of a video, said video having a plurality of frames, each of the frames having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a quantization error of a base pixel of a current frame of said video;

diffusing at least some of said quantization error to one or more pixels of a video frame temporally neighboring said current frame; and

storing information associated with the diffusing in a computer-readable storage medium.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, further comprising repeating the determining and diffusing steps for multiple pixels in the current frame, wherein the quantization error for each of the multiple pixels is determined at lest by utilizing an adaptively adjusted threshold.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the threshold is adaptively adjusted at least by:

determining a motion field between at least said current frame and said temporally neighboring video frame;

generating a gain control map and a temporal diffusion map from at least said motion field; and

applying said map during said determining and diffusing steps, respectively.

31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said generating further comprises applying a finite impulse response filter to said motion fields.

32. (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein said threshold is adaptively adjusted based at least upon a function of motion between said current frame and said temporally neighboring video frame.

33. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said diffusing is along motion trajectories.

34. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said threshold is adaptively adjusted based at least upon a function of initial tone values of said base pixel and of temporally neighboring pixels at the same spatial location in the temporally neighboring video frame.

35. (New) An apparatus for facilitating reduction of tone scale of an initial video having a plurality of frames, said apparatus comprising:

a quantization module configured at least to determine a quantization error of a base pixel of a current frame of said video; and

a temporal diffusion module configured at least to diffuse at least some of said quantization error to one or more pixels of a video frame temporally neighboring said current frame.

36. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions configured to cause a computer to implement a method for facilitating the reduction of tone scale of a video, said video having a plurality of frames, each of the frames having a plurality of pixels, wherein the instructions comprise:

instructions for determining a quantization error of a base pixel of a current frame of said video;

instructions for diffusing at least some of said quantization error to one or more pixels of a video frame temporally neighboring said current frame; and

instructions for storing information associated with the diffusing in a computer-readable storage medium.